

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W

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R 111430Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4182

UNCLAS ATHENS 4543

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, ELTN, BEXP, GR

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: ATHENS METRO

REF: A. 75 ATHENS 924. B. 75 ATHENS 3205

1. UPON CONCLUSION OF TWO CONSECUTIVE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETINGS ON MAY 7 AND 8, CHAIRED BY PM CARAMANLIS, A RELEASE WAS ISSUED SETTING FORTH GOG DECISIONS ON THE PROPOSED ATHENS SUBWAY AND THE CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM:

A. ALTHOUGH IT CANNOT ALONE SOLVE THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM, A SUBWAY IN THE CENTER OF ATHENS IS VITAL AND INDISPENSABLE

B. IN DETERMINING THE AREA TO BE COVERED BY THE SUBWAY NETWORK, THE FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE CITY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

C. THE PROCESS OF AWARDING THE \$4 MILLION CONTRACT (EST) FOR THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONTRACT WILL BE PUT IN MOTION. THE SCOPE OF THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN IS TO FINALIZE THE LOCATIONS OF THE SUBWAY TUNNELS, AND TO ASSESS THE INTERACTION OF SURFACE RAILWAY SYSTEMS WITH THE SUBWAY

D. A FEASIBILITY REPORT WILL BE REQUIRED TO ASSESS COMPARATIVE COSTS, CONSTRUCTION COSTS BY STAGE, PROFITABILITY, METHODS OF FINANCING OF THE PROJECT, AND CONDITIONS OF OPERATION

E. CONSIDERING THAT CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN INTEGRATED URBAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IS A LONG-TERM PROPOSITION, AND SINCE TRANSPORTATION IN THE CAPITAL AREA IS STEADILY DETERIORATING, THE PM INSTRUCTED THE COMPETENT MINISTERS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS, THROUGH THE OPENING OF FREE AND RAPID-TRAFFIC THOROUGHFARES IN AND AROUND ATHENS, AND THROUGH THE USE AND EXTENSION, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, OF EXISTING RAILWAY SYSTEMS,

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I.E., THE NETWORK OF THE HELLENIC RAILWAYS ORGANIZATION, THAT OF THE

ATHENS-PIRAEUS ELECTRICAL RAILWAYS, AND THE NOW INACTIVE ATHENS-LAVRI  
ON  
RAIL LINE

2. COMMENT: THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT  
AND COMMUNICATIONS HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT  
(A) THE TEN FIRMS (INCLUDING THE JOINT VENTURE OF BECHTEL-  
SOFRETU) WHICH SUBMITTED BIDS ON JANUARY 31, 1975, FOR THE  
PRELIMINARY DESIGN (SEE REFTEL A) WILL BE REQUESTED TO STATE  
WHETHER THEIR BIDS ARE STILL VALID; AND (B) INTERNATIONAL TENDERS  
WILL BE ISSUED FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE FEASIBILITY REPORT ON  
THE BASIS OF TERMS OF REFERENCE UNDER PREPARATION.  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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